CANESADOOHARIE

or

How Many Historians Does It Take...

PART THREE
(PREVIEW)

CANESADOOHARIE;

or,

"How many historians does it take, to...."

[**PART THREE*** (PREVIEW)]

{ prepared by t.derby, expressly for the *"Erie County (Ohio) Lakeshore Pioneer-History"* publications, at Archive.org }

Although the 'title' is obviously intended to evoke the denigrating "joke",

" *How many* (so-and-so's) *does it take, to change a light-bulb?* **"**

but in this instance, the question is more specifically:

How many 'historians' does it take, to irreparably change **"***history***"**?

[*- **'PART ONE'** of this exposé includes the full original text of Col. James Smith's "Canesadooharie" adventures --- and reveals how the century-later false 'historical' attribution of the "Indian" place-name, "*Canesadooharie",* evolved over a fairly short time, (ultimately causing that name to be 'officially' assigned to the wrong river).

'PART TWO' details additional information about the true "Canesadooharie" (Huron River)**;** including facts as told by other frontiersmen (etc.), who also experienced it during the same time-period as Col. James Smith.]

But, that "Canesadooharie" myth is merely one of many --- that *local-historians* (and, likewise, the "*historical societies*", etc., of which they associate), have perpetuated (and continue to promulgate) to the 'public'. And, even worse, many of these myths have been permanently inscribed onto "*historical marker*" plaques --- thereby, in many cases, causing the myths to be the predominant "*history*" most widely-seen by the general-public. Therefore, another sequel (**Part 3**) to this series, is also in-the-works. Here are just few samples of additional (many) myths which need to be elucidated (and -- hopefully -- ultimately rejected by the public):

[These 19th-Century documents are not new discoveries; they have long been readily available to "local-historians".]

- The Ottawa County Historical Society asserted** that ***"the Wolcott 'Keeper's House' was built for Benajah Wolcott, as a wedding present for his new wife."*** But, if so, then how does Seth Steel, (that property's land-owner during that decade), fit into that scenario**??**

And --- **IF** that (so-called) "*wedding present*" structure was truly built for Wolcott --- then why did he officially claim to be totally destitute, merely two years before his new, (and very low-paying), lighthouse job**?** And, (the same year of his marriage), why did his 'peers' also certify that he was destitute? Were those 'peers' liars-and-frauds, the whole group of them**??**

Also, why do the contemporaneous records indicate that Benajah actually instead resided in a true, U.S. gov. *"keeper's house"* near the very base of the lighthouse**?** (see photo, below)

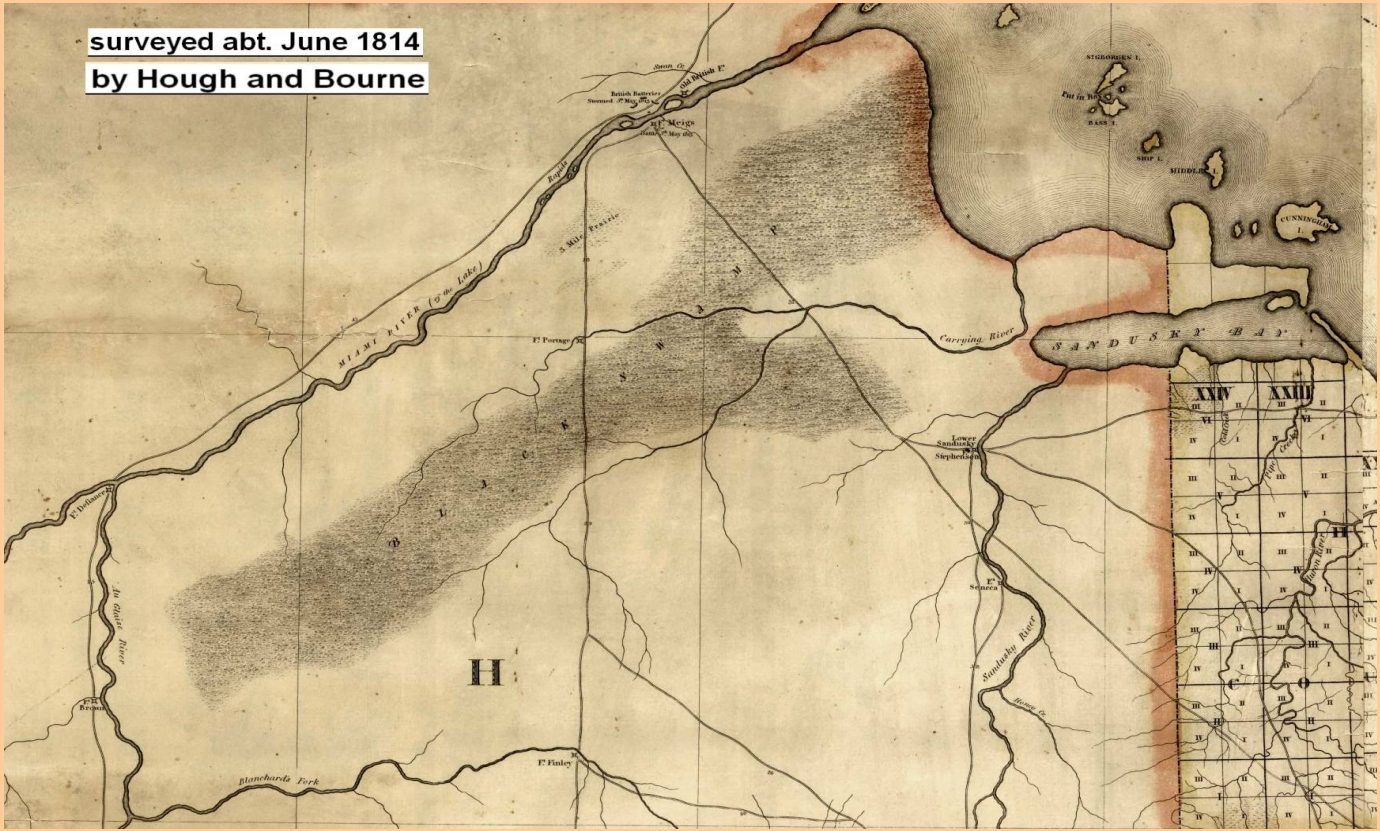
[Which would, of course, be consistent with having the full-time seasonal responsibility of people's maritime safety. (In 1818-1822, he resided in Sandusky City and might also have resided, after 1822, during the Lake Erie off-season).]

[**- O.C.H.S. was still utiizing their "old myths", for the (supposed) *" 200th anniversary of the Benajah Wolcott House "*, in ' 2022 '.]

(circa-1859 photograph) **“ Wolcott's” actual, original (U.S.gov.) “keeper's house”, ('**right'**), located at the Marblehead lighthouse site.** (A stone structure, later replaced with a wooden structure.)

- **ANOTHER MYTH** (WHICH HAS NOW PERMEATED MUCH OF NORTH-WESTERN OHIO'S "*HISTORY*"), **IS THE "*INCREDIBLY VAST*" AREA, ENCOMPASSED BY N.W. OHIO'S "GREAT" 'BLACK SWAMP'.**

BUT THESE TWO CONTEMPORANEOUS SURVEY-MAPS, SEEM TO TELL A DIFFERENT STORY :



[The "***Black Swamp***" is in the 'blue' area --- "***barrens***" in 'tan' area --- "***praries***" in 'green' areas]

• AND, THE VARIOUS (CURRENTLY UNRESOLVED) MYTHS OF THE **LAKE ERIE ISLANDS ;**
myths that are disputed by many first-hand sources, (such as this one, from the year 1804) :

THE

AMERICAN GAZETTEER,

EXHIBITING

A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE

CIVIL DIVISIONS, RIVERS, HARBOURS,

INDIAN TRIBES, &c.

OF THE

AMERICAN CONTINENT,

Compiled from the beſt Authorities,

By JEDIDIAH MORSE, D.D. A.A.S. S.H.S.

Author of the American Univerſal Geography.

ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS.

SECOND EDITION,

REVISED, CORRECTED, AND ENLARGED.

PUBLISHED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS.

Charleſtown:

PRINTED BY AND FOR SAMUEL ETHERIDGE, AND FOR

THOMAS AND ANDREWS,

BOSTON.—1804.

Cunningham's Iſland, in Upper Canada, is ſituated at the W end of lake Erie, S weſterly of the Baſs iſlands, and ſoutherly of Ship iſland.

Middle Siſter, a ſmall iſland at the W end of Lake Erie in Upper Canada, ſituated between the Eaſt Siſter, and Weſt Siſter. *Smyth.*

Rattle-Snake Iſlands lie at the weſtern end of Lake Erie.

Sanduſky Iſland, in lake Erie, U. Canada, lies a little S E of the Baſs iſlands, and nearer to Sanduſky Bay.

Ship Iſland, U. Canada, is of very ſmall extent, between the Baſs iſlands, and Cunningham's iſland in lake Erie.

"*Sandusky Island*", (above) was a very early (1700s) name for 'Kelleys Island',(which, of course, was assigned the name 'Cunninghams Island', circa-1808). But, the "*Cunningham's Island*" (above) seems to be modern-day 'Catawba Island'. Regardless, they all were apparently "*Canadian*" possessions at that time (and perhaps until the War-of-1812). (Which is especially pertinent, if the U.S./"*Indian*" treaties omitted them.)

Likewise, this '1802' map (by Arrowsmith / Tardieu) also shows that "*Sandusky Island*" was not the same as "*Cunningham Island*" (which seems crudely intended here, for modern-day Catawba I.? or South Bass I.??) :

[Also, "historians" assert that Mr. Cunningham (this island's name-sake) was a "Frenchman". (However, the surname "Cunningham" is typically ' British ' ?)]

- Also, evidence exists about Ohio's *"CT Western Reserve"* assigned length of "120 miles", being intentionally exceeded :

In point of fact, however, more recent, and more accurate surveys seem to indicate that, from 5,000 to 10,000 acres more than the Connecticut Legislature ever contemplated, have really been set off to the Fire Lands company. But as this is but a small quantity, compared with the whole; and as the metes and bounds have been, for a considerable time, considered as fixed and settled; no future modification of them is expected.

[from THE OHIO GAZETTEER AND TRAVELER'S GUIDE, by Warren Jenkins (publ. 1837)]

[The precise amount of that 'excess' acreage, has apparently never been officially declared. But, that 'excess' was partially the result of the appointed final-surveyor purposefully* placing the western boundary-line, in a slightly northwestern direction (instead of "due-north" like the Pennsylvania State-Line), and, thereby, exceeding the "120 mile" limit (from that PA State-Line), by nearly a mile, at the northwestern corner of the "Connecticut Western Reserve", (and which -- in addition to the 'excess' acreage of the "Fire Lands" -- also apparently caused other *"Surplus Lands"*, within the area that is now encompassed by western Lorain County). [*- Original survey records clearly indicate that the appointed final surveyor knew that he was placing that far-western line, in a slightly northwestern direction. Was he perhaps instructed to do it, to insure that the main **Lake Erie Islands** were fully included within that *"Connecticut Western Reserve"*?? ("Part Three" of this Series, will intend to solve that "local mystery", and many, many others.)

And, of course, there is the standard myth about the 'Firelands', which seems to persist among "historians": *"These Fire Lands were 'settled' by families of Connecticut whose property was destroyed, there, during the Revolutionary War"*. That is, of course, false. (None of those CT families are known to have relocated here. Native-American "Indians" still possessed and occupied this entire "Fire Lands" area, for a full decade after that 'grant'. The COLLECTIVE-SALE of this land was entirely conditional upon the planned elimination of its *"Indian occupation"*; and was merely intended as eventual MONETARY COMPENSATION to those *"CT Fire Sufferers"*.)